

REMARKS

The application includes claims 1-35 prior to entering this amendment.

The examiner objects to claims 9-13 claims as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates them allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The examiner rejects claims 1-8, 14-23, and 29-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yokoyama (U.S. Patent 5,506,602).

The applicant amends claims 2-5, 7-9, 14-15, and 29-30 and cancels claims 1 and 24-28 without prejudice. The application remains with claims 2-23 and 29-35 after entering this amendment.

The applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Restriction Requirement

In a telephone conversation June 15, the applicant provisionally elected, without traverse, to prosecute group I, claims 1-23 and 29-35. The applicant now confirms its provisional election of group I, claims 1-23 and 29-35 and cancels claims 24-28, without prejudice.

Claims Allowable

The applicants rewrite claim 9 in independent form and amends claims 2-8 and 14 to depend from claim 9. Claims 10-13 depend from claim 9. Claims 2-14 are now in condition for the examiner's allowance.

The applicants amend independent claim 15 to include limitations found allowable in claim 9. Claims 16-23 depend from claim 15. Claims 15-23 should be in condition for the examiner's allowance.

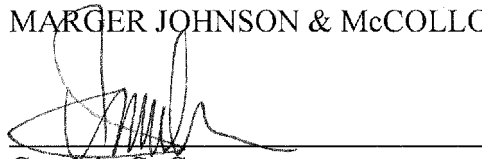
The applicants amend independent claim 29 to include limitations found allowable in claim 9. Claims 30-35 depend from claim 29. Claims 29-35 are in condition for the examiner's allowance.

Conclusion

The applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all remaining claims. The applicants encourage the examiner to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graciela G. Cowger', is written over a horizontal line.

Graciela G. Cowger
Reg. No. 42,444

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.
210 SW Morrison Street, Suite 400
Portland, OR 97204
503-222-3613

Customer No. 20575